Corres - Schoenfeld

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April 16, 1953

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Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 14 enclosing Andy Wardlaw's memorandum of conversation with Mr. John M. Petrilli. Mr. Petrilli's assertion that the Salama uprising was planned by the Government reminded me of Lic. Carlos FERNANDEZ Cordova's remark, as reported in my memorandum of conversation of March 23, that "he had good reason to believe the Government was going to liquidate all vestige of the opposition in a simulated uprising scheduled for May". People have, of course, accused the Government of staging "complots" before, but the Salama incident lends itself to that interpretation somewhat more readily than many of the others.

With reference to the activities of the student anti-communist leaders, the herpetologist Townsend Sackett, Pension Geroult, Guatemala, called on me some time ago to state that the following officers of the Comité de Estudiantes Universitarios Anti-comunistas were actually working for the communists: Mario SANDOVAL A., Secretary of Propaganda, 4 Av. Nte #18 y 9 Av. Nte. #32; Cosme VISJOVICH, Secretary of Defense, 3 C. P. Joc. #3; and Gabriel MARTINEZ del Rosal, Secretary of Relations, 5 C. P. #23. I do not consider Mr. Sackett a reliable source of information.

I am very grateful for the advice and guidance you patiently gave me when you were here. It has helped me immeasurably in doing my job, and I hope that I may continue to have the benefit of your judgment and experience.

Kindest regards and every good wish.

Respectfully yours,

John W. Fisher

The Honorable
Rudolf E. Schoenfeld,
American Ambassador,
Guatemala.

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